
8 White Update

February 2005

Team Teachers Note

It is hard to believe that the year is half over. In the past five months, the students have grown tremendously both physically and intellectually. Each day that passes is different from the previous day; there is always something exciting happening on 8 White!

At periodic intervals the 8 White teachers send home Progress Reports. Current grades for each assignment are outlined in each report as well as the current summative grade. Zeroes on the report indicate a missing assignment or a test/quiz that has not been made up. After reviewing the Progress Report with your child, if there are further questions please contact the teacher for clarification.

We have had a great first half of the year and are sure that the second half will bring many more challenges, opportunities, and certainly a lot of fun.



Social Studies

History is an important part of our lives, it's the events in history that make us the way we are today. That's why it is important for us to learn history at a young age, and the eight white history class taught

by Mr. Kewriga is a great place to learn! So far, we've learned about The Byzantine Empire and The Muslim Empire. Right now, we're learning about The Middle Ages. We learned about great leaders such as Justinian, Muhammad, and Charlemagne. We also learned about life changing events like the split of the Muslim Empire, the Nika Revolt, and The Battle of Hastings.

For each of these units, Mr. K has organized many fun and educational projects to reinforce what we have learned. For The Byzantine Empire unit, we made collages filled with pictures and words that related to unit. For The Muslim Empire unit, we took a trip back in time to the Muslim Empire or anywhere the Muslims may have traveled to. Then, we recorded our exciting "trips" and put them together like a journal. That was a really great project. We all had a blast working on it. For The Middle Ages, we've been having The Apprentice Contests. We would do projects that he assigned us, and the group that has the best project would get the most points. In the end, we would add up our points from the different contests, and the group with most points would be the winner. So far, we've done plays to explain the system of Feudalism to first graders and have built castles. Over all, this is a great class and I can assure you every eight white student would agree with me on this!

LanXin Li

What's the homework tonight?

Check out Schoolnotes at:

www.schoolnotes.com/01545/cpeltier.html

Note: There is no homework in a class if "No Homework" is written. If it is blank after a given class, call a friend, I may not have gotten there. -czp

Pre-Algebra

Since the beginning of the year, we have learned a lot about algebra. Mr. Yonker has taught us about the language of algebra, integers and solving basic equations. In the beginning we covered such topics as; Order of operations, the mathematical properties, variables and absolute value. Next we learned about Integers. We had to learn about comparing and ordering integers, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them. We really struggled at first with adding and subtracting integers, but now we have it down pat.

Once we learned how to manipulate integers, Mr. Yonker taught us how to solve problems using variables. We covered one and two-step equations, including ones that required us to remember the formulas for perimeter and area. The toughest ones were the word problems for figuring out the distance, rate and time of moving object.

Sometimes, when we have difficulty learning the steps required to solve a problem, Mr. Yonker or Mr. Winters comes up with a way for us to remember what to do. One time, Mr. Yonker called his idea "Boxes and Spaces". It helped us to remember how to use the "Distributive Property" when there are integers involved. Mr. Winters also walks around and helps us with any problems that we are having trouble with.

We also just had our first mid-term. We spent much of last weeks classes writing notes on all of the chapters that we had covered, and Mr. Yonker let us write any notes that we would want to use during the mid-term on a note card. Most people found that the note cards were very helpful during the exam. Although many people were very worried that the midterms were going to be very hard, the grades were mostly very good.

Korina O'Connor



Honors Algebra

Math has always made me tingle with excitement. That tingling feeling is nothing compared to the fun I experience in Mr. Yonker's honors math class. So far we've covered Chapters 3 to 7 in just 5 months! In Chapter 3 we solved equations using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. With Mr. Yonker guiding us we did percents, tables, and formulas in what seemed like seconds.

Moving into Chapter 4 got us all exhilarated. Some people have been caught singing and giggling as they do transformations, reflections, translations, dilations, and rotations. Chapter 4 passed after we completed the function notation and arithmetic sequences. Chapter 5 was all about lines and slopes that would probably make us sweat with worry but Mr. Yonker made a note sheet that deciphered it all in seconds. We worked on compound and absolute value inequalities in Chapter 6.

Mr. Yonker's class worked together to solve any hard problems they witnessed. As Chapter 7 was completed with its substitution and inequalities, Mr. Yonker decided it was time to teach us more. We took on Linear Programming! As the midterms dawned upon us our class grew restless. Mr. Yonker calmed us down and prepared us in the way he saw fit. After the midterm we all breathed a sigh of relief. Our honors class has never been better off!

Debanjan Mukhopadhyay

Algebra

Before Christmas vacation, the algebra classes were working on our holiday songs, in which we took the holiday classics and incorporated math terms into the lyrics. Returning back from vacation we then moved onto finishing our exponents unit. We spent the next few weeks reviewing for our math midterms. The overall average grade for the algebra classes was about a C+. Hopefully next time we'll prepare better. We are now currently working on Chapter 6, in which we will cover polynomials.

Neha Srivastava

Language Arts

In the last couple of months of in Language Arts with Ms. Bedard we read Crispin The Cross Of Lead by Avi. It is about a poor peasant boy in the medieval times whose mother dies and has no one. He must find out who he truly is. We have recently finished it and are now doing a project. We have to make a model of a manor (village) of the medieval times or portray a character in the book about their daily life.



For Black History month we have learned about Martin Luther King Jr., watched a movie, and talked about the civil rights movement. We also read Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech. As an extra credit assignment, we were asked to reflect on Martin Luther King's speech and write our own "I Have A Dream" speech. In February, there will be an assembly for all of Oak Middle School and some of our classmates will read his or her speech aloud to the grade. So far this year Ms. Bedard has done a great job of teaching us about Language Arts!

Marc Marin

Allied Arts/Gym

The students have just begun their fourth Allied Arts cycle. The classes they are taking this cycle include Keyboarding, Tech Ed, Health and Art. Everyone is excited that all the Allied Arts classes now have their own rooms!

Physical Education, in addition to being held in our newly renovated gym, is also held outside weather permitting. Our students are learning how to Snowshoe! If your child does not have waterproof pants, please make sure they have an extra pair of pants with them on gym days.

Is Your Printer Broken?

Students can email assignments into any of their teachers who will gladly print them out.

kbedard@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

tkewriga@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

cpeltier@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

erutan@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

swinters@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

syonker@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us



The assignment needs to be saved in one of two formats -

“.doc” or “.rtf”

(Students may also bring in discs)

Science

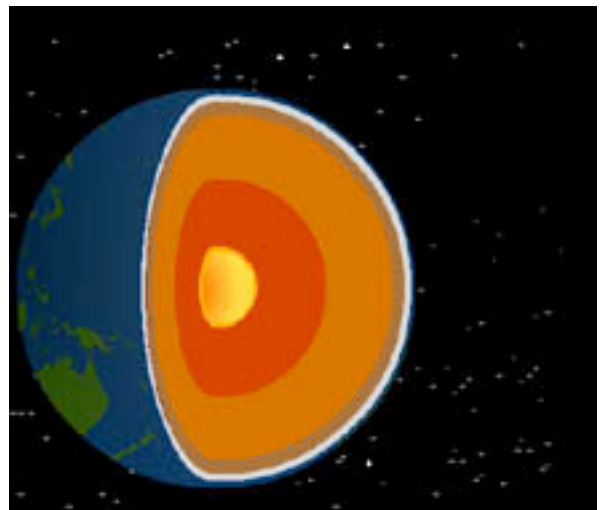
Throughout the year we've expanded our knowledge on unfamiliar topics in Mr. Rutan's science class. It all began when we would wake up in the morning before going to school and turn on the news channel to catch the hurricane and tropical storm progress on the Florida coast. We learned about this in school and witnessed the topics too (being able to compare them to our everyday life). In science, as a class, we would record data about the Tropical Storms and continued this process by watching their growth. We kept this up for the first few months until moving on to tracking Mt. St. Helens, the famous 8,364 foot stratovolcano in Washington State. Once its activity had been put on hold, we had a minor earthquake in Littleton, MA that we took note of. This study later led onto more international earthquakes. Lastly, the recent tsunami in Indonesia had not only Mr. Rutan's science classes concerned, but the rest of the world as well. Since it made a big impact on the United States, we as individuals monitored the devastating news and have contributed money to benefit the victims as a team too.



The next few weeks we learned about metrics and found that using metric measurements in life had become more common now, making conversions necessary for us to know. Mr. Rutan sent us home with a project over one week span of time to measure our rooms, roughly the objects in them, as well as include the area, perimeter, and volume. It was a fun way to incorporate our understanding of the subject with the rooms we basically live in (knowing us teenagers). Next, we stuck with the topic of measurements and learned about the density of objects by conducting experiments in the lab environment. We found the densities of many different objects by using the simple formula: Mass divided by Volume. Once we completed that assignment, we started the next one which was the Chemistry Unit which included the Periodic

Table of Elements. After continuous classes learning about how to read them, their characteristics, their categories, and those that could combine, we had a final test to sum up that area of study. We all did pretty well and felt confident that we had learned a lot more than we knew in the past thanks to Mr. Rutan.

Finally, we are now starting geology: “the study of the earth”. We recently watched an introduction video called the “Heat Within” that talked about heating the earth's interior. This is leading into deeper understanding of the earth, specifically focusing on its layers. Our first project is going to be to make a 3D scale model of the earth Interior (1cm = 500m+). This will be due before the start of February vacation, but we have the right to work in partners if preferable for the two week assignment. This should be an exciting way to learn about the precise scale measurements of the layers themselves. Additionally, there are others geology units to follow consisting of rocks and minerals and more appealing topics.



Demi McLaren